

LEARNING MADE EASY



iPhone[®] Photography

for
dummies[®]
A Wiley Brand



Move beyond simple
point-and-shoot photos

Get pro results from your
iPhone 11 or older iPhone

Discover simple edits that
enhance your images

Mark Hemmings

Top iPhone photography instructor,
world traveler, and Canadian

iPhone[®] Photography

^{for}
dummies[®]
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iPhone® Photography For Dummies®

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Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part 1: Fast-Tracking Your Photography Skills	5
CHAPTER 1: Introducing iPhone Photography	7
CHAPTER 2: Taking the Complete Camera Walk-Around	19
CHAPTER 3: Setting Up Your Camera for Photographic Greatness	49
CHAPTER 4: Applying iPhone Auto-Mode Settings	63
Part 2: Discovering the Fundamentals of Photographic Genres	89
CHAPTER 5: Creating Perfect Landscape Photographs	91
CHAPTER 6: Shooting Sports Photography	107
CHAPTER 7: Saving Memories through Family and Individual Portraiture	125
CHAPTER 8: Documenting Your Travel and Vacation in Pictures	153
CHAPTER 9: Creating Still Life and Product Photography on the Cheap	191
CHAPTER 10: Taking It to the Streets: Photographing Strangers	213
Part 3: Editing, Organizing, and Sharing Your Photos	237
CHAPTER 11: Editing with the iOS Photos App	239
CHAPTER 12: Organizing and Sharing Your Photos like a Pro	259
Part 4: The Part of Tens	277
CHAPTER 13: Ten iOS Apps That Will Enhance Your Photography	279
CHAPTER 14: Ten Tips for Shooting and Sharing Video with Your iPhone	283
CHAPTER 15: Ten Extra Editing Features to Jazz Up Your Images	289
Index	295

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
About This Book	1
Foolish Assumptions	2
Icons Used in This Book	3
Beyond the Book	3
Where to Go from Here	3
 PART 1: FAST-TRACKING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS	 5
CHAPTER 1: Introducing iPhone Photography	7
Getting to Know the Camera in Your iPhone	7
Models with one lens	8
Models with two lenses	8
Models with three lenses	9
Future models with more than three lenses	11
Taking a Quick Tour of the iPhone Camera App	11
Taking a Photo	12
Viewing Your iPhone Photos	14
Editing Your iPhone Photo	16
Sharing Your Photos	17
 CHAPTER 2: Taking the Complete Camera Walk-Around	 19
Discovering the Different Ways to Open Your Camera	20
Properly Holding Your iPhone for Steady Photographs	21
Taking a Photo Without Using the Normal Shutter Button	23
Side shutter using the volume buttons	23
Apple EarPods volume controller shutter release	23
Zooming in to Your Subject	25
Zooming best practices	26
Cropping instead of digital zooming	28
Using the Selfie Camera with and without Background Blur	29
Knowing When to Use (and not Use) the Camera Flash	32
Getting to Know Live Photos	36
Using Live Photo	37
Making sure Live Photo isn't on by default	38
Using the Camera Timer for Stable and Sharp Photos	39
Family portraits	41
Selfies with a tripod or stand	43
Landscape photography using your timer	43
Getting Creative with Filters	44
Choosing the best camera filter for your photograph	45
Reverting to the original	48

CHAPTER 3:	Setting Up Your Camera for Photographic Greatness	49
	Turning on iCloud Photos	50
	Optimizing iPhone Storage	52
	Downloading the Original Photos	53
	Uploading to My Photo Stream	54
	Sharing Albums	55
	Watching Cellular Data	56
	Auto-Playing Videos and Live Photos	57
	Viewing Full HDR	58
	Transferring to Mac or PC	58
	Customizing Your iPhone's Camera	59
CHAPTER 4:	Applying iPhone Auto-Mode Settings	63
	Zooming with Various Camera Modes	63
	Preparing to Take Selfies	64
	Lighting and background	64
	Light case options	66
	Selfie sticks and stabilizers	66
	Taking Selfies	69
	Choose the Portrait selfie mode	70
	Adjust depth control	70
	Choose your favorite type of selfie light	72
	Fine-tune the light intensity and your effect intensity	75
	Add photo filters	79
	Add a flash	80
	Use your self-timer	80
	Adjust selfie zoom to add your friends into the picture	81
	Considering Square Photos	82
	Accessing your square camera	84
	Following square photography best practices	84
	Creating Panoramic Photos	85
	Panoramic best practices for frame-worthy photographs	85
	Vertical panoramic photos!	87

PART 2: DISCOVERING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC GENRES 89

CHAPTER 5:	Creating Perfect Landscape Photographs	91
	Camera Considerations	92
	Long-pressing the screen where your main subject is located	93
	Controlling focus and exposure with the AE/AF Lock	95
	Lighting Considerations	96
	Taking advantage of the magic hours	96
	Timing magic hour	98

	Gear Considerations	100
	Steadying your iPhone camera with a tripod	100
	Choosing which lens to use (for multilens iPhones).	101
	Photography Tips for Your Next Outing.	103
	Applying the Rule of Thirds for better compositions.	104
	Using the Self Timer option for shake-free photos	105
CHAPTER 6:	Shooting Sports Photography	107
	Camera Considerations	108
	Gear Considerations	109
	A tough iPhone protective case.	110
	An iPhone screen protector.	110
	A monopod for steadier sports photos	110
	A foldable camping seat	111
	Battery packs or battery cases	111
	Touch-sensitive gloves in cold weather	111
	A telephoto lens attachment for distant athletes.	112
	Lighting Considerations	112
	Photographing into the setting sun	113
	Using your Portrait mode.	113
	Using shadows for a fine art sports photography look	114
	Creating silhouette sports photos	114
	Photographing during golden hour	116
	Trusting your iPhone to produce accurate colors	116
	Photography Tips for Dynamic Sports Photos	117
	Using the Rule of Thirds	117
	Panning your camera to create motion blur	118
	Choosing the best-looking stride	119
	Photographing from a lower position	121
	Creating contrast between athlete and background	121
	Photographing athlete group photos.	122
CHAPTER 7:	Saving Memories through Family and Individual Portraiture	125
	Camera Considerations	126
	Portrait mode pros and cons.	126
	Burst mode.	127
	Self-timer	129
	Gear Considerations	130
	Lighting Considerations	132
	Underexposing your portraits for extra drama	132
	Looking out the window.	134
	Photographing travel photos during blue hour	135
	Using shadows to create pictograms	136

Making use of silhouettes for dramatic portraits	136
Placing family members in the shade for even light	137
Photographing from behind with low sunlight	139
Photography Tips for Your Next Portrait Session	140
Photographing from a lower position	140
Choosing black and white for fine art portraits	141
Trying forced perspective techniques for fun family pics	141
Using the Thirds grid for environmental portraits	142
Creating humorous photos to keep the mood light	143
Avoiding objects sticking out of people's heads	145
Choosing to include mirrors in your compositions	145
Including family member's interests	146
Avoiding overcast skies	146
Combining family photos using the Layout app	149
Photographing from an aerial perspective	149
Screenshot photos for family who are away	150

CHAPTER 8: **Documenting Your Travel and Vacation in Pictures**

Camera Considerations	154
Using Burst mode for moving subjects	154
Capturing portraits with both Portrait and Photo modes	154
Photographing nonportraits in Portrait mode	157
Choosing black and white for iconic locations	158
Photographing cityscapes through windows	160
Photographing travel scenes with the ultra wide lens	160
Getting detail in night scenes using Night mode	161
Choosing all three lenses for iconic scenes	163
Gear Considerations	163
Extending your photography with battery packs	164
Packing a tabletop-sized tripod	165
Photographing or filming yourself with a selfie stick	165
Purchasing the best protective case for your needs	165
Choosing a tough mobile device bag	168
Keeping your gear safe while traveling	168
Lighting Considerations	169
Backlight	169
Side light	170
Raking light	170
Reflective light	172
Diagonal light	172
Silhouette light	173
Shadow light	174
Magic hour light	174
Blue and yellow light	176

Photography Tips for Your Next Trip	177
Practicing design-based photography	177
Placing S-curves in your compositions	178
Framing your primary subject	178
Photographing exterior architecture twice	179
Including pattern photos of unusual scenes	181
Scheduling famous landmarks as early as possible	182
Waiting for animals to move into the picture space	182
Choosing your background first	184
Matching color when possible	184
Including national text and fonts in your photos	185
Composing with equidistance	186
Tightening the view of iconic buildings	186
Composing family members looking into the frame	188
Reviewing your favorite establishments	188

CHAPTER 9: Creating Still Life and Product Photography on the Cheap	191
Camera Considerations	192
Gear Considerations	192
Purchasing backgrounds for flat-lay still life photos	193
Choosing the appropriate background for your product	194
Using clear glass as a background	195
Floating flowers in water	195
Purchasing Bristol board for interior product photography	196
Photographing still life photos in a greenhouse	196
Adding opaque paper to windows for unique backgrounds	198
Lighting Considerations	199
Photographing your product indoors	199
Using side light	201
Using backlight	201
Using harsh overhead light	203
Using doorway light	204
Photographing with mixed lighting	205
Adding shadows to your still life photos	206
Photographing throughout the day	206
Creating Beautiful Still Life Photos	208
Composing symmetrical photos properly	208
Arranging foliage to catch the setting sun	209
Following the equidistance principle	209
Creating both color and black-and-white versions	210
Adding negative space to be used for text	211

CHAPTER 10:	Taking It to the Streets: Photographing Strangers	213
	Camera Considerations	213
	Choosing black and white for most photos	214
	Cropping best practices	215
	Placing more importance on drama instead of sharpness	217
	Using background blur to maintain privacy	217
	Photographing with Burst mode for perfect timing	218
	Gear Considerations	219
	Using waterproof cases for rainy days	219
	Choosing other stability options besides tripods	220
	Lighting Considerations	221
	Waiting for people to walk into a ray of light	222
	Allowing shadows to work as metaphors	222
	Blurring people by photographing at dusk	223
	Maintaining anonymity by using backlight	224
	Capturing mannequins with window reflections	225
	Photographing only a person's shadow for extra mystery	225
	Raking light for textured backgrounds	227
	Photography Tips for Your Next Day (or Night) on the Town	228
	Finding your background first	228
	Choosing an aerial perspective	229
	Being culturally sensitive	229
	Maintaining a sense of lightness and humor	231
	Choosing the best stride	232
	Showing the urban environment using a wide lens	232
	Composing with a sense of direction	233
	Avoiding faces to maintain anonymity	235

PART 3: EDITING, ORGANIZING, AND SHARING YOUR PHOTOS237

CHAPTER 11:	Editing with the iOS Photos App	239
	Opening Your Photos App	239
	Exploring Your Editing Options	241
	Starting with Auto adjustments	241
	Getting to know the editing tools	243
	Applying Filters	247
	Vivid	247
	Vivid Warm	249
	Vivid Cool	249
	Dramatic	250

Dramatic Cool	250
Mono	250
Silvertone	250
Noir	250
Cropping an Image	251
Using (and disabling) the Auto Crop tool	252
Flipping your image horizontal	252
Rotating your photo 90 degrees	253
Adjusting Aspect Ratio	253
Editing Your Portrait Photography	255
CHAPTER 12: Organizing and Sharing Your Photos like a Pro	259
Thinking about Post-Production Workflow	259
Deleting Unwanted Photos	260
Deleting a photo	261
Recovering a deleted photo	262
Favoriting Photos with the Heart Icon	263
Diving into Album Organization	265
Selecting photos to create a new album	266
Removing a photo from an album	267
Using albums wisely	268
Finding photos of a single person	268
Sorting your files by media types	269
Using the Other Albums section	270
Knowing When to Use the Photos Section	270
Making the For You Section Work, Well, for You	271
Using the Search Tool within the Photos App	272
Sharing Your Photos	273
Using shared albums	273
Sharing to any location	275
Sharing to your social media channels	276
PART 4: THE PART OF TENS	277
CHAPTER 13: Ten iOS Apps That Will Enhance Your Photography	279
Mark's Suggested Free Photography Apps	279
Adobe Photoshop Express	280
Adobe Photoshop Fix	280
Adobe Lightroom CC	280
Instagram	280
Facetune2	281

Mark's Suggested Paid Photography Apps	281
TouchRetouch	281
Slow Shutter Cam	281
Brushstroke	282
SKRWT	282
LensFlare.....	282
CHAPTER 14: Ten Tips for Shooting and Sharing	
Video with Your iPhone.....	283
Accessing the Video Camera within the Photos App	283
Holding Your iPhone Properly for Smooth Video Recording	284
Trimming the Length of Any Video	284
Adjusting the Exposure and Filter Settings	285
Cropping Your Video.....	285
Choosing a Video Aspect Ratio	285
Choosing Vertical or Horizontal Orientation.....	286
Creating Time-Lapse Photography Video Clips.....	286
Capturing Dramatic Video Clips with Slo-Mo.....	287
Exporting Your Finished Videos.....	288
CHAPTER 15: Ten Extra Editing Features to	
Jazz Up Your Images.....	289
Adding Notes and Text Using Markup	289
Adding Your Signature to Your Photos.....	290
Adding Extra Markup Options to Your Photo	291
Deleting Your Markups to Return to Your Original Photo.....	291
Creating and Editing a Live Photo.....	291
Creating a Loop Photo	292
Creating a Bounce Photo	292
Exporting Your Live, Loop, and Bounce Photos	293
Creating a Long Exposure Photo.....	293
Creating Abstract Photos Using Long Exposure	294
INDEX.....	295

Introduction

In 2007, the world was stunned at a just-released futuristic device called the iPhone. A mobile phone without physical keys? There was no middle ground — either you loved it or hated it — upon seeing the iPhone advertised for the first time. Those polarizing attitudes changed quickly, however, when the public came to see the wisdom of a full touch screen.

Whether they anticipated it or not, Apple quickly realized that its new “magical device” (to quote Steve Jobs) was quickly becoming one of the world’s most popular cameras! And it’s easy to see why. Who wouldn’t want the immediate gratification of seeing their photos instantly on a large yet pocketable screen? And to have your camera with you all the time? That’s a recipe for a revolution in the world of photography.

So now it’s time to turn attention to you. Maybe you’re someone who feels and understands the soul of a particular place but has a challenging time with the technical side of photography. Or maybe you’re the opposite, where you have always found the technical side of things easy, but you struggle with capturing emotion, mood, metaphors, and heart in your photographs. Regardless of what your challenge is, this book is well-suited to help you both master the technical and the artistic sides of iPhone photography. The technical side of the iPhone camera is actually easy to understand, which will free you up to apply creative concepts to each of your images.

About This Book

iPhone Photography For Dummies is a book written for you. No matter what level of iPhone experience you have, or what your history in photography is, the goal of this book is to get you excited about the possibility of seeing at least one iPhone photo opportunity each day! As your iPhone is almost always with you, either in your backpack, purse, schoolbag, or back pocket, you almost always have access to a surprisingly good quality camera. This book gives you the technical and creative tools that will fuel your desire to photograph pretty much daily.

In this book, I show you how to

- » Take and edit your photos in the quickest yet most accurate way possible.
- » Navigate your way around all the iPhone camera settings and options.
- » Access and use the extra camera features, such as panoramics and selfies.
- » Create the best landscape, sports, family, travel, products, and portrait photographs.
- » Apply HDR to your landscape photos for perfect exposure even in tricky light.
- » Initiate Burst mode for sports and family photography to ensure that you get the shot.
- » Utilize light in its many forms to create the best-looking subjects.
- » Apply the Rule of Thirds and other compositional tools to your images.
- » Edit, organize, and share your iPhone photos.
- » Create smooth-looking videos.
- » And plenty more!

Foolish Assumptions

In classic *For Dummies* style, this book assumes that you may know nothing about the subject matter, yet is also highly accessible and valuable to those who may consider themselves as advanced amateurs. *iPhone Photography For Dummies* gently guides you through the best practices of mobile photography, helping you gain a new creative outlet to express yourself and to impress your friends and family!

So to start you out on a path to photographic success, I assume that you

- » Have an iPhone and its iOS operating system is up-to-date.
- » You have access to Wi-Fi or use a data plan with your mobile phone provider.
- » You know your Apple iCloud account login and password so that you can upload your photos to iCloud.

Other than these three presumptions, I explain everything else in the book in great detail so that you never feel overwhelmed or bogged down.

Icons Used in This Book

This book, like all *For Dummies* books, uses icons to highlight certain paragraphs and to alert you to particularly useful information. Here's a rundown of what those icons mean:



TIP

A Tip icon means I'm giving you an extra snippet of information that may help you on your way or provide some additional insight into the concepts being discussed.



REMEMBER

The Remember icon points out information that is worth committing to memory.



TECHNICAL
STUFF

The Technical Stuff icon indicates geeky stuff that you can skip if you really want to, although you may want to read it if you're the kind of person who likes to have the background info.



WARNING

The Warning icon helps you stay out of trouble. It's intended to grab your attention to help you avoid a pitfall that may harm your iPhone.

Beyond the Book

In addition to what you're reading right now, this product also comes with a free access-anywhere Cheat Sheet with fingertip facts about iPhone photography. To get this Cheat Sheet, simply go to www.dummies.com and search for "iPhone Photography For Dummies Cheat Sheet" in the Search box.

Where to Go from Here

Before you dive into the exciting world of iPhone photography, please remember that you are creative (even if you don't feel creative). Creativity is in everyone to some degree, and it's often the case that we simply need a guide to kick-start that engine. It is my hope that this book will serve that function, to help you master the technical parts which will free you up to absorb the artistic aspects of iPhone photography. I know that you can do it!

And if you are still having doubts that you can take really good photos with your iPhone, each sample photo (called a *figure*) in this book was taken by me with an iPhone.

One final word before you get to Chapter 1. Throughout this process of discovering the ins and outs of iPhone photography, take inspiration from other photographers who have mastered their preferred photographic genre. Instagram is a good resource for this. However, it's also critical that you don't allow yourself to feel bad if your photos are not up to that level. Practice creating photographs every day, if possible, and you will most certainly see your abilities radically improve over a short period of time.

1

Fast-Tracking Your Photography Skills

IN THIS PART . . .

Introducing iPhone photography

Taking the complete iPhone camera tour

Setting up your iPhone camera for best results

Applying iPhone Auto-mode settings

- » Discovering the differences between single and multilens iPhones
- » Understanding the differences in the iPhone 11 series camera app layout
- » Taking photos using the iPhone's built-in camera
- » Viewing, editing, and sharing your photos

Chapter **1**

Introducing iPhone Photography

Phone photography is one of the most satisfying ways to express yourself, as the iPhone and its camera allow you to present your interpretation of the world to as many people as possible. And the best part is that you don't need to be represented by an art gallery or hire expensive talent agents. Simply pull the iPhone out of your pocket, take the photo that is in front of you, edit that photo to perfection, and then share your finely tuned image to the world via social media, all within one little handheld device!

Getting to Know the Camera in Your iPhone

As of this writing, Apple produces iPhones that have a single lens camera, a dual lens, and a triple lens. Understanding these hardware differences straightaway can help you navigate your own iPhone better, as well as help you with future purchasing decisions.



REMEMBER

One thing to keep in mind is that it doesn't matter if your iPhone model only has one lens. Don't ever feel that you may be left out because of your model of iPhone! Here is a truth that you can hold onto: Learning about composition, light, color, and photographic genre best practices are more important than having the latest and greatest gear. Rest assured, you'll succeed with this book regardless of your iPhone model and its age.

The following list describes which iPhone model has what lenses. Included are iPhones that are supported by iOS 13, as of this writing.

- » **Triple Ultra Wide, wide, and telephoto lens iPhone models:** 11 Pro and 11 Pro Max
- » **Dual Ultra Wide and wide angle lens iPhone models:** iPhone 11
- » **Dual wide and telephoto lens iPhone models:** Xs, Xs Max, X, 8 Plus, and 7 Plus
- » **Single lens wide angle iPhone models:** Xr, 8, 7, 6s Plus, 6s, 6 Plus, and SE

Models with one lens

The single lens iPhone has one camera that has a wide-angle view, which means that a single lens iPhone is fantastic for landscapes, travel or vacation photography, street photography, architecture, full-body portraiture, and many more genres. But that's not all . . . this lens (as with all iPhone wide angle lenses) can photograph small objects at a very close distance. Thus, it becomes a useful substitute when DSLR (large camera) photographers need to photograph something small, but don't have what are called close-up macro lenses with them.

Figure 1-1 shows an example of the out-of-production but highly regarded iPhone SE, which sports a single lens. All iPhone series earlier than the 11 models have a single lens option and are usually less expensive to purchase.

Models with two lenses

Most dual lens iPhones add what Apple calls a *telephoto view*, which means that the second additional lens has what is popularly called a *zoomed-in view*. That description is technically incorrect as the lens cannot physically zoom in and out. However, it's an adequate description in that you'll be able to see faraway objects much better by using this additional lens.



TIP

This telephoto lens is very similar to the viewing angle of your eyes. Thus, it has been a popular *field of view* for those who want an accurate display of whatever is in front of their lens.

FIGURE 1-1:
Example
of a single lens
iPhone model.



With the advent of the iPhone 11 series, the *non-Pro* dual lens models called iPhone 11 do not have a telephoto lens option. However, they can certainly zoom in with what is called *digital zoom*. Their lenses are the wide and the ultra-wide-angle versions. The triple lens iPhone 11 Pro series includes the telephoto lens as well as the two wide angle options.

Figure 1-2 is an example of what a typical two lens iPhone would look like. Keep in mind that earlier series iPhones had the two lenses side-by-side in a horizontal arrangement, while later series iPhones had the two lenses stacked vertically.

FIGURE 1-2:
The dual lens
iPhone XS Max's
wide-angle and
telephoto lenses.



Models with three lenses

With the advent of the iPhone 11 Pro models, Apple has entered the three-lens game. The new addition is called an *Ultra Wide* angle lens, and it is truly wide! You'll be able to fit in your composition a huge amount of the scene in front of you for a unique super wide view.

The Ultra Wide lens is perfect for landscape and architectural photographers, and street photographers have been putting this lens to very good use as well. The other two lenses haven't changed much with regards to the viewing angle. You'll still have the normal wide angle and telephoto view, much the same as what you would have been used to with any older dual lens iPhone models.

The iPhone 11 Pro Max and its triple lens layout is shown in Figure 1-3. However, keep in mind that the 11 Pro (which is a bit smaller in size) has the same three lenses with the same image quality.



FIGURE 1-3:
Triple lens
cameras that
come with the
iPhone 11 Pro
and 11 Pro Max
models.

YOUR iPhone CAMERA VERSUS A PROFESSIONAL CAMERA

A lot of people get tempted by the allure of a very expensive professional DSLR camera, as they believe that they can create better photographs with it. While improved photographs can certainly be true, keep in mind that most photography these days is viewed on a screen. This view means that it's often difficult to judge which image is from an iPhone and which is from a pro-level DSLR when compared on a portable device.

So, the general rule is to take your iPhone camera to the furthest that you can push it. And when you feel that you have mastered the iPhone and are feeling creatively held back, then consider a DSLR or mirrorless style of camera. The larger cameras will have greater resolution, but keep in mind that they don't have the convenience of the iPhone, which often makes the iPhone a better choice for daily use.

Future models with more than three lenses

Could there ever be a four-lens iPhone model? At the time of this writing, there are only rumors. However, it wouldn't be surprising to have an additional fourth lens in the future that is even more of a telephoto view than the normal telephoto lens. While it would take a near engineering miracle to fit a longer telephoto lens on an iPhone, micro technology is advancing at such a rate that we may see such an iPhone within a short amount of time.

Taking a Quick Tour of the iPhone Camera App

As of this writing, the iPhone 11 camera screens have a slightly different look than the camera screen that you will see with any iPhone from series X models and earlier. But don't worry; this camera walk-around will still make sense to you even though the figures may look a little different than your own iPhone's camera screen. For example, Figure 1-4 shows the typical camera screen view of the iPhone XS Max, using iOS 13. If you have a single lens iPhone, such as the XR, your screen will look slightly different than Figure 1-4 due to the fact that you won't see the 1x zoom option that comes with dual lens iPhones.

The iPhone 11 series has a brand-new look, which neatens up the camera interface and has some usability improvements. This book shows examples from an iPhone 11 series model, which looks similar to Figure 1-5. Again, don't feel that you will be left out because you don't have an iPhone 11. Even though the look is slightly different, the core functionality is quite similar to previous generations of iPhones.

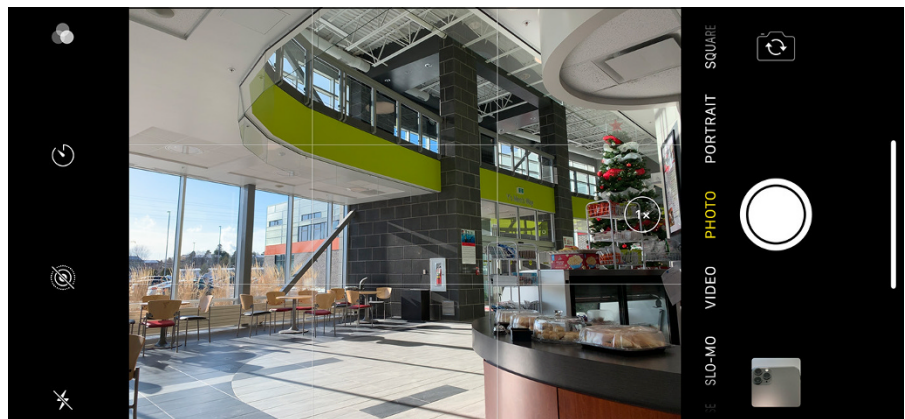
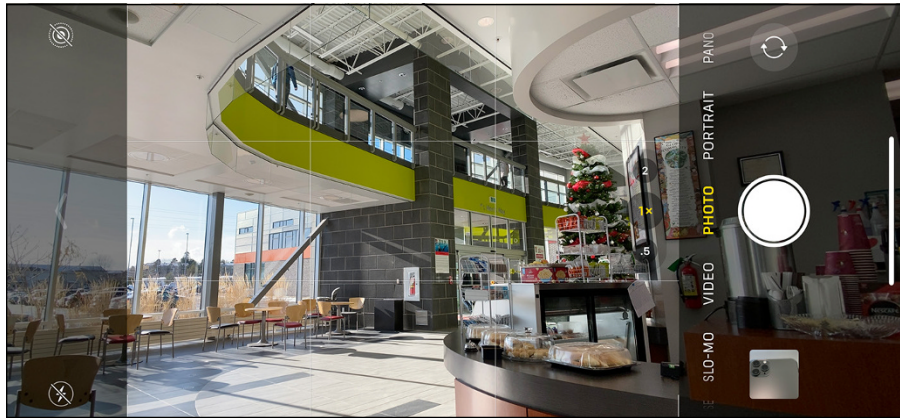


FIGURE 1-4:
Camera screen
view of an iPhone
XS Max iPhone.

FIGURE 1-5:
The new camera
look introduced
on all iPhone 11
series models.



Taking a Photo

When you turn on your iPhone, you see what is called your lock screen, which looks similar to Figure 1-6. Press and hold the small camera icon at the bottom right for about 1 full second and then let go. You should now see the Camera app screen.

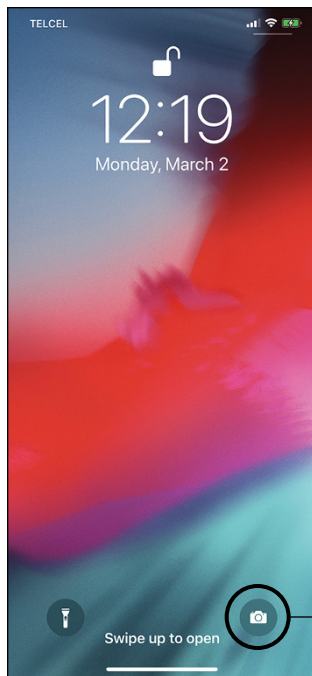


FIGURE 1-6:
A typical iPhone
lock screen.

Push and hold this camera icon
for about one full second

Alternatively, if you're already within your iPhone and you can see all your apps, simply tap on the camera icon. Figure 1-7 shows an example of the iPhone Camera app icon.

With your Camera app open, find a good scene that you want to photograph and tap the large white shutter button circle at the bottom of the screen, as shown in Figure 1-8.

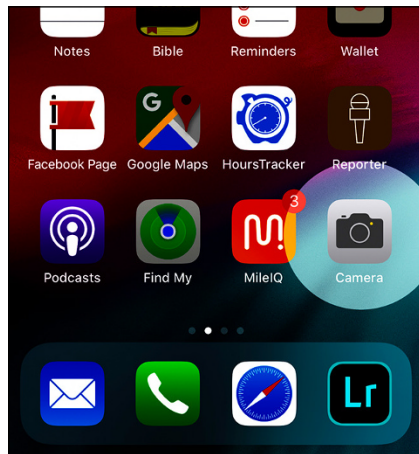


FIGURE 1-7:
A highlighted
screenshot
showing the
Camera app icon.

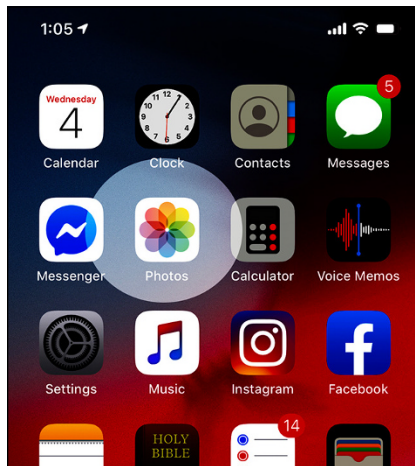


FIGURE 1-8:
Example of the
shutter button
used to take a
photo.

Viewing Your iPhone Photos

After taking your photo, close the Camera app and return to your home screen. Tap your Photos app, as shown in Figure 1-9.

FIGURE 1-9:
A highlighted
screenshot
showing the
Photos app,
where your
photos are
stored.



TIP

You can actually access your photo at the bottom left of your Camera app screen. Simply tap the little square thumbnail version of your latest photo, and it will open full size for you to review.

At the bottom right of your screen, make sure you tap Albums (as shown in Figure 1-10), and then tap the Recents album at the top left of your app screen.

You can flip between all your photos using a horizontal swipe motion with your finger or thumb (see Figure 1-11).



TIP

To see greater detail in your photo, use the *pinch-to-zoom* technique. Place your index finger and thumb on your photo and then widen the space between both of your fingers to zoom in. Do the opposite to zoom out.

FIGURE 1-10:
Choose Albums,
and then Recents
to access all your
photos.

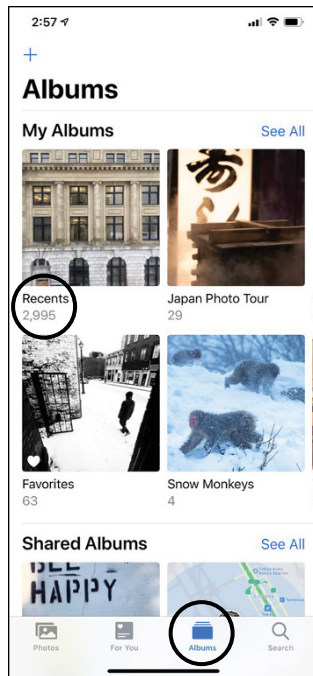


FIGURE 1-11:
Your photo
review screen.



Editing Your iPhone Photo

On the top right of your screen, tap Edit to access the photo editing tools.

At the bottom middle, tap the Auto magic wand icon, as shown in Figure 1-12. Did you see any changes in your photo?

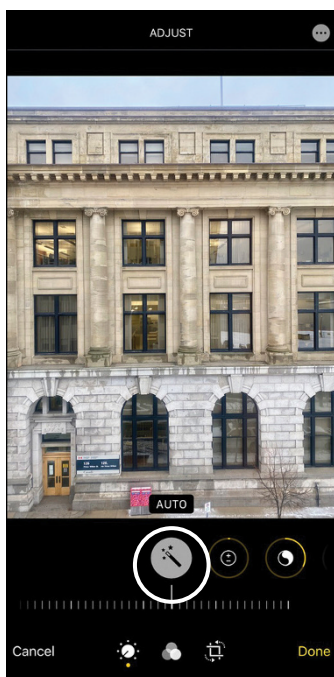


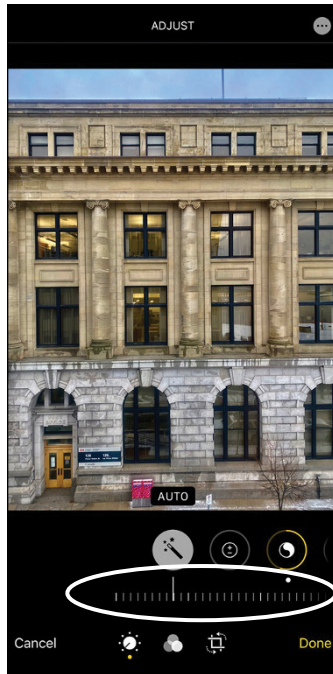
FIGURE 1-12: Press the Auto magic wand icon for your first photo edit.

Underneath Auto are many small vertical lines that act as a type of scroll bar. As in Figure 1-13, with your finger scroll left and then right until you get your desired artistic appearance.

When done, press the yellow Done option at the bottom right of your screen.

There are so many excellent editing tools beyond this Auto feature — so many of them, in fact, that Chapter 11 is devoted to exploring each tool in depth.

FIGURE 1-13:
The scrollable
adjustment
option for
different editing
looks.



REMEMBER

One of the most common photo editing question from iPhone users is “Do I need to save my photo edits?” The answer is no! The Photos app will do everything for you. In fact, your photo automatically gets saved pretty much every second when you’re doing editing work.

Sharing Your Photos

Sharing your edited photo couldn’t be easier! Tap the little up-arrow Share icon at the bottom left of your screen. (If you don’t see the Share icon, tap anywhere within your photo, and it will appear.) You can now share your photo to Messages, Mail, Airdrop, and any other iOS app that supports sharing. Figure 1-14 shows what the sharing screen looks like.

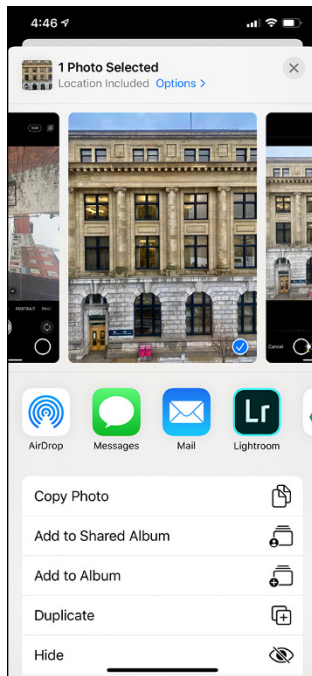


FIGURE 1-14:
The sharing
screen allows you
to share your
photo using
various apps.